

# REPORT: CONGREGATIONAL SURVEY—MARCH 2017

*Dear Bloomington Evergreeners,*

*During the month of March, we conducted a survey asking for your help in evaluating our weekend service. We thought you would enjoy reading a summary of the results.*

*A survey is only helpful if an overwhelming majority participate. Nearly 550 Evergreeners filled it out! Thank you so much for participating!*

*At the end of the report, we will share what we've learned from your input.*

*Blessings,*

*Brent, Ken, Tim, Jeff, Mike, Bill, Kevin, Jon, Deacon and Spencer*



## **INTERESTING DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION OF EVERGREEN-BLOOMINGTON ATTENDERS.**

- 49% are 13-45 years of age. 46% are 46 years of age and older. The Friday service has a slightly larger proportion of 19-25 year olds than do the two Sunday services.
- 56% are women.
- 58% are married. Among Friday night attenders, one-half are single.
- 41% have been attending Evergreen for more than ten years. 21% have been attending for less than 2 years. New attenders are scattered evenly between all three services.
- 62% report attending weekend services four times per month. 31% report attending the weekend services 2-3 times per month. Frequency in attendance does not vary by service.
- 54% report they are currently in a Growth Group.

## **NOTABLE COMMENTS WRITTEN ABOUT THE MESSAGES.**

- "Messages are good" - 11
- "Make the teaching more in-depth/ More Bible study/ more expository" - 10
- "More practical teaching—like depression, anxiety." - 2

## **OPINIONS ON THE WEEKEND SERVICES**

- 89% report that the weekend messages have moderate to high spiritual impact.
- 42% report that the messages engage the intellect and emotions equally. 30% report it varies, sometimes they engage my emotions more, other times my intellect more.
- 64% are satisfied with the amount of practical application with the message. 28% wish there was more.
- 34% report they are satisfied with the current teaching rotation. 28% like the current teaching rotation but would like to hear from other pastors periodically. 18% would like one or two other pastors added to the teaching rotation.
- 76% report that the volume of the music is just fine. 15% report that the volume is too loud. 5% report that the music is not loud enough.
- 24 people took the time to mention they loved the weekend services.

**NOTABLE COMMENTS WRITTEN ABOUT THE MUSIC (THE NUMBER IS THE FREQUENCY OF THE COMMENT).**

- “Music seems too familiar/ similar” - 10
- “Songs are too repetitive or too long” - 6
- “Do more upbeat music.” - 4
- “Do more old hymns” - 4
- “Do more worship singing.” - 4
- “I like the Friday Band” - 4
- “Do more special music” - 3
- “Keep all the music together and do not interrupt.” - 3
- “Sing less Spanish” - 2

**COMMENTS ABOUT THE LIGHTING.**

- “too much light ” - 3
- “too dark on Friday Nights” - 2

**OTHER COMMENTS**

- “Have communion more often” - 5

**REGARDING THE “RESPONDING TO GOD” SECTION OF THE SERVICE (SUNDAYS ONLY).**

- 70% like it.
- But the two most often mentioned ways to improve this portion of the service are:
- “Make it shorter.” - 14
  - Some “make it shorter” comments were concerned for the kids in child-care.
- “Make it more responsive and less speaking that resembles a mini-message.” - 4

**OPINIONS ON FEELING SHEPHERDED, VALUED AND CARED BY THE LEADERSHIP.**

75% feel shepherded, valued and cared for by the leadership of Evergreen.

But what could the leadership do to make you feel more valued and cared by the leadership?

- “Connect in a more personal way.” - 20
- “Pastor’s should consider better volunteer acknowledgement and ministry appreciation.” - 10
- “Provide more program and ministry options so no one feels left out.” - 6
- “Solicit feedback.” - 4

**REGARDING SERVING IN A MINISTRY AT EVERGREEN.**

47% of respondents said that they currently serve in an Evergreen ministry.

- 32% have been serving for 10 years or more.
- 29% have been serving for 3 years or less.
- What has kept you from serving?
- “Lack of time/ busyness/ busy with kids/ work school.” - 60+
- “New to the church.” - 23
- “Planning to serve.” - 13
- “Uncomfortable/not ready” - 13
- “Taking a break.” - 8
- “Not sure where I fit.” - 8
- “Health issues.” - 5

**WHAT DID THE PASTORS LEARN?**

1. Most of our church likes our current preaching rotation. Brent and Spencer will continue to be the primary communicators, but we will include the talents and perspectives of other pastors periodically.
2. We will continue “The Responding to God” portion of the Sunday service and yet be considerate of the length. We will make the time more responsive and less a mini-message.
3. Many of us have different preferences with music and lighting! We’ll try to pursue a variety of music.
4. We’ll plan more “special music” on Sundays.
5. We might need more groups and activities for our people over 50.
6. The pastors should visit Growth Groups more often. We’re looking forward to that!
7. About half our members are serving, which is great! However, we will continue to pursue a fuller participation in serving. We are encouraged that Evergreen is doing better than the typical “80-20” rule for most organizations (20% of the people do all the work). Thank you!
8. We need to clarify the purpose and goals of Immigrant Hope. (This is a ministry of compassion to help legal immigrants.)